

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 31, 1983

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 83-93

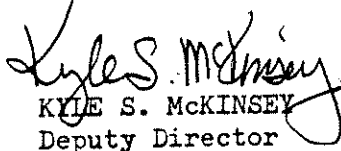
TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL PRESIDING OR SOLE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES

SUBJECT: REQUIRED COURT ORDER CONTENT FOR AFDC-FC

On July 13, 1983, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) informed California that its present court order content is "insufficient to implement the intent" of Section 472(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (Public Law 96-272; 42 USC Section 672). The federal decision is based on a May 20, 1983 memorandum prepared by the American Bar Association's National Legal Resource Center for Child Advocacy and Protection.

The July 13, 1983 HHS interpretation specifies that court orders for children placed on or after October 1, 1983 must contain a statement that "reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from his or her home and to make it possible for the child to return to his or her home." Because a child's federal or non-federal AFDC-FC status is often not known when such court orders are issued, it is prudent for courts to determine whether these reasonable efforts have been made in all cases where a child is removed from the home and placed with AFDC-FC funding.

The department is currently developing emergency regulations to reflect federal policy in this area. Meanwhile, to protect the state and counties from a loss of federal funds, we ask that you implement this revised procedure for all children placed on or after October 1, 1983. If you have any questions, please contact the Foster Care Program Bureau at (916) 445-0813 (ATSS 485-0813).

  
KYLE S. MCKINSEY  
Deputy Director